

# Torrance Herald

NINTH YEAR

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NO. 37

## KILLS WIFE AND COMMITS SUICIDE

### H. F. Treen Attempts to Slay Entire Family and Neighbors

There are two little Torrance children for whom the sun does not shine, the birds do not sing, and for whom there is no pleasure in toys or school.

In the twinkling of an eye the childish joys of life were cut off for them when their devoted mother in whom they confided their griefs and happiness, was ruthlessly shot down in cold blood before their very eyes by a crazed step-father, who later killed himself.

Frank Allen, 11, a manly little fellow, with a straightforward look of determination that softens when he speaks to, or looks at his blue-eyed sister Thuse, of 12, today told of the awful tragedy that took from him a loving parent and rid him of a step-father that for more than two years had made his and his mother's and sister's life a torment.

"I had just taken my bath Saturday night about seven o'clock, intending to go right to bed" said he, "and had stepped into the front room, where I heard voices. Just as I opened the door I heard Mr. Treen, my step-father say to my sister who had been playing the piano, 'I'll kill you all' and as I entered the room he said, 'I mean you too' and I saw he had a revolver in his hand.

"I turned and ran into the back yard, where mother was watching the chickens, intending to get a stick of wood to defend us from him. Treen followed me and as I ran toward the rabbit hutch he raised his gun and fired. The bullet cut a hole in the shoulder of my bath robe and lodged in the rabbit pen.

"Mother ran toward the Wertz's home just a few yards away and sister at the first shot, ran across the field, toward town. I kept on running but looked back and saw Treen shooting at mother, and then I saw her fall almost in front of the neighbor's house. I don't know what happened then, but a little later the house and yard was full of strangers."

As he spoke of his dead mother tears came to his eyes, his voice choked and he seemed on the verge of a breakdown, but as he uttered the hated name of his step-father, his little fists clenched, his jaws shut so tightly that the white showed through the tan about his sensitive mouth, and his eyes fairly blazed with hate.

"Mother always told us he would kill us all sometime," he continued. "Mother and he have been married for nearly three years and they always quarreled over us children.

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### WOMEN'S CLUB TO MEET.

Matters of the utmost importance to the women of Torrance will come before the meeting of the Women's Club on the first Monday in October at 2 p. m. at the home of Mrs. Frank Sommons, president of the organization.

Among the many things that will be discussed at that time will be the contemplated revision of the by-laws, place and time of future meetings, committee work and scope of endeavor for the coming year.

Mrs. Sommons' ability as an executive leader and hostess is well known in Torrance and the enthusiasm with which she is entering the new year's work will undoubtedly be shared by those who avail themselves of the first meeting. The president requests that every member attend and all others who are interested in the problems of Torrance, as she feels that the organization has a wonderful year ahead of it.

### BANK DIRECTORS MEET.

The regular monthly meeting of the directors of the State Exchange Bank was held Tuesday, Mr. E. O. McCartney of Beverly Hills, and associated with the Hub Oil Co., O. B. Kee of Long Beach, Anton Huber of Los Angeles, came over to attend. Anton Huber, uncle of R. A. Huber, cashier of the bank, was elected to fill the vacancy of F. G. Walling as director. Regular routine of business was transacted.

## Glass Plant Makes Ready To Blast

For the first time since April 15, when the plant closed for the Spring and Summer period of inactivity in the manufacture of glass, smoke was seen coming from the tall stack of the Torrance Window Glass factory, Monday morning, when fires were lighted under the great furnaces.

It is the expectation of General Manager C. L. Bisbee that the plant will be ready to "blow" for the first time about October 2, when more than 200 employees will again be turning out the high grade window glass for which this institution is noted.

E. P. King, superintendent of the plant is now out of the city engaging the necessary skilled labor for the season's production.

### HALLOWEEN BALL.

The American Legion Auxiliary will stage, at the American Legion Hall, a Fancy Dress Halloween Ball, which, according to plans already laid, will be the finest ever held in Torrance. Great preparations are being made by the Auxiliary and great care taken in the selection of prizes for costumes. There will be prizes for the prettiest, prizes for the funniest and all sorts of other prizes. Announcement is being made six weeks in advance of the ball, giving everyone a chance to prepare a costume, and it is requested that every one mask. There will be all sorts of special features and favors, including serpentine dances, confetti battle, spot dances, etc.

It is enough to say that this dance will be given by the American Legion Auxiliary, as every dance they have ever given has been a wonderful success and has been greatly enjoyed by the people of Torrance, and we earnestly solicit the patronage of all Torrance people at this dance.

The date is Tuesday, October 31, and the price \$1.00 per couple, and tickets are on sale now at both drug stores, Sam Levy's, El Prado Cafe, and from any Legion or Aux-

## SANTA FE'S ENTRY HERE IS ASSURED

### Franchise Gets Endorsement of Cal. State Ry. Commission

According to a report received in Torrance Wednesday, the final obstacle in the application of the Santa Fe and Los Angeles Harbor Railroad Company to construct a spur of approximately twelve and one-half miles between El Segundo and Wilmington, and that would pass through Torrance, in order to afford the Santa Fe an outlet to the harbor was overcome at a hearing held in the land office courtroom Tuesday before T. John Butler, special examiner of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Unqualified approval of the proposed connecting link was given by the California State Railroad Commission, through its chief engineer, Richard Sachse. Until a recent survey of the situation was made by Sachse, the Railroad Commission has been opposed to the building of the new line.

The Santa Fe extension is expected to cost about \$1,500,000. The Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles, with many other civic bodies, including the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, has voiced its approval of the plan, believing that the additional line would serve to relieve the freight transportation situation between this city and the harbor, and vice versa.

Special Examiner Butler will forward the result of his findings to the headquarters of the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington, and prompt action is expected. In answer to the contention of Councilman Conaway and others that "if the Santa Fe is allowed to cross the west basin channel as proposed, it will tend to block this proposed development and the city will probably lose one of the biggest industries in the country," President Gourdir of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce who has kept in close touch with the situation, says: "This is propaganda that is being used by the opponents of the proposed route and has no foundation in fact. When this matter was brought to the attention of the Santa Fe the latter voluntarily offered to move its right of way to one side of Bixby Slough so as not to interfere with any proposed industrial establishment."

President Gourdir, as are many other residents of Torrance, is delighted with the action of the California State Railway Commission and the attitude assumed by the representative of the Interstate Commerce Commission to which the entire matter was appealed.

## Torrance Well No. 1 Looks Like Banner Producer

Not since July 19 last, when Standard well No. 1 on the Torrance Holding Company's thirty-acre tract, blew its head off and gained a perfectly good field of corn with a deluge of oil, has the situation been so tense in the oil section as today when it is expected momentarily that Torrance No. 1 will be brought in with every indication of a big flow.

The latter was cemented off at 2500 feet and since that time to the present when the well reached a depth of 3700 feet the drill has been boring with every prospect of its becoming a big producer. Yesterday the drillers struck an apparent gas pocket, the force of

which has covered the Gerrick and surrounding machinery with a heavy coating of a very fine grade of oil of a gravity of from twenty to twenty-four.

While no information could be gained from the drillers, their actions spoke louder than words today when facts regarding the probable flow were sought and from an experience with Standard No. 1 it is evident that another big producer in the Torrance section is assured at almost any moment. Apparently every precaution is being taken to conserve the oil when it comes and the experience at Standard No. 1 will serve as a guide in bringing in the new well.

## HOUSING CO. RECEIVES 13 APPLICANTS

### Security Housing Corp. To Establish Branch In Torrance

As a result of a recent letter-writing campaign on the part of the Security Housing Corporation, mention of which was made in these columns last week, this company has received within the past week thirteen applications from residents of Torrance in which the latter ask financial assistance in building homes.

Due to this indication of acute necessity for new homes in this city the company, will within the next ten days, open a branch office in Torrance and begin the erection of several homes.

According to the company's plan they enable a person who has accumulated 30% of the total cost of a house and lot, in the form of a clear lot, an equity in the lot to be built on, cash, or a combination of the three, to obtain funds with which to build a home—giving the borrower ten years' time to repay his loan by stipulated monthly installments. The loan may be paid off as fast as desired, the future payments being discounted at 7% per year on all payments made in advance. In other words, they are not charged a penalty for paying off their loan.

Assistance in the selection of a lot in a desirable section and appraisal of its worth, based on trend of development and increasing or decreasing value. An analysis of taxes and assessments—restrictions; zone, racial, building, lot—improvements; obtainable information regarding telephone, sewer, water, gas, electricity, schools, markets, churches—drainage; flood control—transportation—titles, etc.

Relieving the Home Builder of worries, anxieties and risks, superintending and checking the home while under construction. Suggesting plans, providing specifications, preparing estimates, calling for bids from contractors, comparing bids with estimate, drawing up contracts, letting contracts, arranging for contractor's bond, employer's liability insurance, fire insurance, etc. After the contracts are let, frequent inspection, checking of invoices and payroll, progress payments to contractor, etc.

The fact that cash is available with which to pay for materials purchased on a quantity basis, should effect a saving of from 10 to 15 per cent. Performing, in other words, the thousand and one details that insure satisfactory work and the utmost saving and safety for the builder.

The Security method of handling all finances eliminates the heavy discount on mortgages and results in great saving.

Literature detailing more fully the company's plan has been left at the Torrance chamber of commerce for the use of the public.

Nathan Hubbard has returned from Portland, where he spent his vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Allen, with Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Thomas, motored to Tibanga Canyon, Sunday. Robert Cotton and B. C. Hubbard have returned after a short vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fogle and babe of Tulare are visiting their aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Theobald.

## STANDARD WELL AGAIN COMES IN FOR 500

### Several New Wells On Eve of Producing Liquid Gold

Considerable excitement was caused in and about Torrance during the week, when it became known that the oil well drilled on the Torrance Holding Company's lease of thirty-five acres, known as Standard No. 1, had again come in at from 500 to 600 barrels a day on the pump.

Der Amo No. 2 is now drilling through the cement; Torrance No. 2 is cemented in; and Standard No. 2 directly east of No. 1 was spudded in last Monday.

With indications that there is oil in large quantities in all of these wells, the activity in erecting new derricks in this territory has increased and drillers and those "in the know" feel assured of even greater activity within the next sixty days.

## DONALD FINLEY IS ELECTED DIRECTOR

The Dominguez Land Corporation again has representation on the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce by the unanimous election of Mr. Donald Finley, Thursday, Sept. 14, to fill the vacancy caused by the recent resignation of Mr. Geo. W. Neill. The new director is a man who has been for years identified with large interests and will be a decided addition to the list of progressive directors of the chamber.

Reporting on some of the matters that have been taken up during the last week, Secretary Pottinger gave the directors a list of various concerns who had expressed a desire to locate manufacturing in this city. They included, a Deep Well pump company, a leather manufacturer, two shoe manufacturers, Kidie Kar manufacturer, a wrench manufacturer, a concrete lumber plant, a stock and die manufacturer, two electric washing machine companies, a furniture factory, an automobile assembling plant, a manufacturer of sparkplugs, and a manufacturer of automobile tires.

As in every instance these concerns required assistance either in the form of money or land, or both, very little, if any, encouragement could be offered them.

## BALL TEAM TO GIVE DANCE SAT. NIGHT

The Torrance Merchants' Base Ball team will give a benefit dance next Saturday evening at the American Legion Hall, the proceeds to be used to buy new suits for the players. A peppy jazz orchestra from Long Beach will furnish the music which will both please the dancers and the watchers.

Tickets are now on sale at Malone's Drug Store, and may also be had from any member of the ball team. Refreshments will be served during the whole evening.

## Big Boxing Event Tonight

If Charlie Ringler, who comes from Australia where he gained considerable renown as a punishment taker, can successfully keep away from the wallop peculiar to Sam Kaspar's style of boxing, the fans who attend the exhibition tonight at American Legion Hall are due for several thrills. While Ringler is a much lighter man than the big iron worker, it is said that he "bores in" and his attack is much like a highly incensed wasp, that strikes where least expected.

The semi-windup between Rube Jeffries of Graham and Red Wiley of El Segundo, also promises to be more than a mere boxing bout and those who have seen both boys work are sure to be at the ringside.

In the special event between Kid Llewellyn of the Llewellyn Iron Works and Johnny Kelso of Gardena, the former seems to be favored by the fans, but you never can tell, and friends of the Gardena boxer say Kelso will know he's been in a battle before the evening is over.

Young Aleck of the Pacific Electric is matched with Nat Cyrus of the Llewellyn Iron Works, while Kid Noble of the Hendrie Tire company, has many admirers who predict that he'll put it all over his opponent, Kid Rivello, of the Union Tool.

A pleasant surprise is in store for those who attend the match, as the managers have decided to announce at the ringside two events of top-notch importance.

## Merchants to Mix With Talbot-Whitmore Team Sunday

The Torrance Merchants will play the strong Talbot-Whitmore team from Los Angeles next Sunday on the Union Tool diamond. Red Atkins will do the pitching for the locals, while Ralph McLain will work with him in the backstop position. Ralph catches in big league style and these two youngsters will help the team materially in winning this and future games.

## TORRANCE BOY KILLED BY DEER HUNTER

### Pomona Youth Shoots A. B. Herring by Mistake

Mistaken for a deer as he climbed a cliff above a green valley far up in Lytle Creek Canyon, Alfred B. Herring, aged 22 years, of 2127 Gramercy avenue, Torrance, was shot and mortally wounded early Sunday morning last, by Richard Atkins, aged 19 years, a deer hunter of Pomona.

Atkins, excited over seeing two deer a few minutes before, admitted that he shot hurriedly, when he saw an object moving in the brush up the hillside. Herring, his brain pierced by the bullet, rolled 150 yards down the mountain.

Atkins, believing he had bagged a deer, ran and caught Herring as he rolled through the brush, there discovering that he had shot the hunter.

William Brickley, of the Castle apartments, Torrance, brother-in-law of the wounded sportsman, saw Herring fall down the cliff. He ran to the spot when Atkins caught Herring.

For an hour and a half before Herring died, Brickley held his head in his arms, sobbing at his helplessness to aid. Other hunters, attracted by the shot, walked seven miles to Glenn Ranch and called an ambulance.

When death came, Atkins and Brickley cut a sapling and made an improvised stretcher, pinning their coats to the poles. Assisted by other hunters, they began a long hike over the hills with the body, arriving at Glenn Ranch late in the afternoon.

Enroute they met ambulance drivers of the Mark B. Shaw Company, of San Bernardino, forcing their way through the thick brush, carrying a stretcher. The ambulance drivers were hoping to find the hunter alive. The body was taken to San Bernardino at 7 o'clock Sunday night.

"On reaching town, Atkins, who was near mental and physical collapse, told his story. "I jumped two deer a few minutes before," he said. "I saw a twitching in the brush about 150 yards up the hill. Pulling my gun, it is a 25-20 caliber, to my shoulder I fired. I thought I had shot a deer and seeing something rolling down the hill, ran and caught

## OFFICERS OF NEW B. AND L. ELECTED

### Men Prominent Here and Lomita Organize New Concern

The building and loan association, the organization of which has been under way in Torrance for several weeks, is an accomplished fact due to the untiring efforts of the chamber of commerce President James W. Post and other prominent business men of this city and Lomita.

The organization is to be known as the Torrance Mutual Building and Loan Association and has been incorporated for \$100,000, of which \$25,000 has already been subscribed.

At a meeting of those interested held Tuesday night last the following officers and board of directors were elected: Wallace Post, president; Wilfred Teal, vice-president; James L. King, secretary-treasurer.

Directors: Messrs. W. E. B. Partridge, Wallace Post, Wilfred Teal, Geo. W. Towne, Benj. Harwood, Carl Hyde, W. T. Klusman, W. D. Kemel, James L. King.

The organizers consider themselves fortunate in securing the co-operation of Mr. Towne of Lomita, who will look after the company's interests where where an adequate sum will be constantly on deposit for the needs of that community.

The association comes into the field at a time of an acute shortage in homes in both Torrance and Lomita. Its objects are to promote savings and frugality and it will have in connection with its building activities a savings department for those who desire a safe and sane method of saving their surplus over a period of months with interest at the rate of seven per cent per annum.

The men and women who form the capital guarantee stock holders and who made the organization possible by raising the necessary money to finance the corporation are:

W. E. B. Partridge, James W. Post, James L. King, Benj. Harwood, F. M. Berry, Wilfred Teal, H. A. Kemel, J. S. Lancaster, Geo. W. Post, W. T. Klusman, Ruth A. Patton, P. Burkhardt, E. W. Goesser, C. J. McLaren, Louis J. Smith, R. C. Kite E. O. Faulkner, Jr., Louis Rinker.

Mr. C. E. Berry, of the Los Angeles Mutual Building & Loan Association who first interested Torrance citizens in the project and who pointed out the real necessity for such an organization in this city is making his headquarters in the First National Bank building and will be pleased to meet those interested either in applying for a loan to build a house or opening a savings account. He has given his untiring efforts to the organization of the association and is enthusiastic over its money-making possibilities for those who are financially interested as well as its future in relieving the home-shortage in Torrance and vicinity.

Herring. It was then that I discovered that I had shot him. "If that bullet had been an inch higher, it would have only grazed his scalp."

Herring and Brickley went into the mountains Friday to hunt deer. Saturday was unsuccessful and they again left their camp at daylight Sunday. Atkins was in another party of hunters and did not know Herring was in the vicinity, he said.

Herring was shot a few minutes after 7 o'clock and died at 8:30 o'clock. He never regained consciousness after being hit. The bullet entered his head just above the right eye and emerged near the ear.

Pitifully, Atkins and Brickley tried to save the life of the wounded hunter. Brickley tenderly placed his head in his arms and prayed against death, while Atkins, overwhelmed with grief, sobbed. Hunters who heard the shot offered aid, but even the skill of the surgeon would have been brushed aside by the inevitable, Brickley said.

Brickley and Atkins left San Bernardino Sunday night. "I am tired and have got a long ride before me and then a mighty hard job to tell his folks," Brickley said.

Alfred B. Herring, the unfortunate youth was 22 years of age, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Herring of Torrance.

In addition to his bereaved parents, Herring leaves two sisters, Mrs. William Brickley and Mrs. Charles Copeland and a brother Ernest S. Herring, all of whom attended the funeral that was held Wednesday afternoon at the Methodist church in Redondo, Rev. E. E. Clark officiating.

The bereaved parents of the victim of Sunday's tragedy feel keenly the sorrow of their son's unintentional slayer and will take no steps to prosecute him for his terrible mistake.